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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,947	08/19/2003	Ming Gao Yao	12553/84	6795

7590 12/21/2006
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EXAMINER

KEENAN, JAMES W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3652

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/21/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/644,947

Applicant(s)

YAO ET AL.

Examiner

James Keenan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/30/06 has been entered.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 23-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollowell (US 6,071,056) in view of Kunii et al (US 2001/0023839 or 7,059,476, which have the same disclosure and effective filing date).

Hollowell shows a method, comprising placing a plurality of components of hard disk drive head gimbal assemblies (HGA's) in containment units of a tray 11 (packing tray), placing another tray 11 (exchange tray) above and in contact with the packing tray such that corresponding containment units of the exchange tray match those of the packing tray, and rotating the trays together to simultaneously move the plurality of components from the packing tray to the exchange tray (fig. 6, col. 2, lines 61-67).

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Re claims 25-26, the containment units have indentations and prongs to hold the components in place, as clearly shown in figs. 3-5.

Re claim 27, note "limiters" 61 and 63.

Re claims 28-31, the HGA's comprise read/write heads, sliders (micro-actuators), and suspensions (col. 1, lines 10-32).

Hollowell does not disclose inverting the exchange tray with respect to the packing tray.

Kunii et al show in both the prior art figs. 5-6 as well as the invention figs. 11-12 that inverting a tray prior to positioning it above and in contact with a tray of electronic components and subsequently rotating the trays together to move the components from containment units in one tray to corresponding containment units in the other tray is an alternative to merely stacking or nesting the trays prior to rotation.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the process of Hollowell by inverting the exchange tray instead of merely stacking prior to positioning it on the packing tray, as shown by Kunii et al, as this is explicitly disclosed as an alternate means of moving electronic components between trays, dependent on which side of the components is desired to be inspected.

4. Claims 23-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Kunii et al reference, as noted above, in view of Hollowell.

Kunii et al do not show the electronic components to be hard disk drive components.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the process of Kunii et al by utilizing the trays to transfer hard disk drive components, as shown by Hollowell, as this would merely be the substitution of a particular kind of electronic component, the use of which would neither require undue experimentation nor produce unexpected results.

5. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollowell in view of Kunii et al, or vice-versa, as applied to claims 23-31 above, and further in view of Wanesky (US 3,263,841).

Neither Hollowell as modified by Kunii et al nor Kunii et al as modified by Hollowell shows the step of securing a pin hole in an exchange tray with a pin hole in a packing tray.

Wanesky shows a system of transferring electronic parts between trays, comprising alignment pins 43 for securing corresponding pin holes 28 and 32 in the trays.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have further modified the process of Hollowell in view of Kunii et al, or vice-versa, by utilizing corresponding pin holes in the exchange and packing trays, as suggested by Wanesky, to help in aligning and securing the trays during rotation thereof as further assurance that the components would be properly transferred therebetween.


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6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 23-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Keenan whose telephone number is 571-272-6925. The examiner can normally be reached on (schedule varies).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


James Keenan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3652

jwk
12/18/06